

Initial information provided to the commissioners on August 5. The file was updated with Colorado response on August 17, 2021.

Research from NCSL on Racially Polarized Voting Analysis

August 2021

Hi Rachel and Joe.

Thank you for your patience while we collected information. I reached out to legislative staffers and other experts for more information on racially polarized voting analysis. We did receive some helpful feedback. I did reach out to contacts in all the western states, but most have not done an analysis.

Below are the responses I have received, so far. If I receive additional information, I'll be sure to pass it along.

1. Could we get copies of RFIs or RFPs that other states have sent out to solicit information or bids for polarized voting analyses?

- Massachusetts: [RFP \[commbuys.com\]](https://commbuys.com) for database compilation and racial bloc voting analysis for the Joint Redistricting Committee. For more information, [click here](#).
- Alaska: VRA consultant [RFI \[aws.state.ak.us\]](https://aws.state.ak.us) (PDF).
- Los Angeles County - LA County Task Order (indicates what the database will be for the analysis) – (PDF)
- New Mexico: RFP for professional technical services (PDF)

2. In other states' experiences, how much time does it take to complete this type of analysis?

- Alaska: The most time intensive portion is the preparation of the voting return databases and preferred candidate identification. Once those are built, and in many cases this work can begin now, the actual statistical runs are fairly quick. Like a week.
- Dr. Lisa Handley: The time required to do this work varies depending on the quality of the database, the number of contests to be analyzed, and how many areas in the state must be examined separately as the analysis should not just be statewide but area specific. I would say analyzing voting in a state, including 2-3 areas of the state separately, can take anywhere from 75 to 150 hours.

3. Could other states give us a ballpark or range of about how much it cost them to complete this analysis?

- Alaska: Last cycle the board spent \$100-\$120k. However, Alaska was subject to preclearance at that time. We are hopeful that with the reduced work load of no preclearance requirement, our costs will come in substantially less.
- Lisa Handley: Almost all of this work is charged on an hourly basis. I think everyone who does this kind of work has a PhD in political science (or some other social science) and the rate reflects this level of expertise. I am guessing the range is perhaps 300-500/hour.

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I would advise putting between \$50,000 and \$75,000 aside for the project. I would also advise the state to create the database to be used. While this is usually not a problem as the rbv database is often the data that is being used for redistricting; this is less true in southern states that have voter registration by race.

4. Approximate population in the state? We'd love to get information from Western states of similar or at least somewhat comparable sizes (SD, AK, WY, WA, OR, AZ, NM, etc.)

- Alaska: 733,391
- New Mexico: 2.1 million

Other resources:

- Michigan: [RFP \[michigan.gov\]](https://www.michigan.gov/rfp) for Voting Rights Act Legal Counsel
- California: [RFI \[wedrawthelines.ca.gov\]](https://www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/rfi) for Litigation Counsel
- Paper recommended by Ben William's former colleague on the quantitative side of the Voting Rights Act. Apparently, the methodologies described here are very common. In case you would like to read it: <https://gking.harvard.edu/files/gking/files/eintro.pdf> [gking.harvard.edu]. It's written by Gary King at Harvard who's done a lot of work in this space.

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August 17, 2021, Update from Colorado:

Colorado re: racially voting bloc analysis. (The answers are in red.)

1. Do you have any copies of RFIs or RFPs that solicit information or bids for polarized voting analyses?

We did not use an RFI or RFP.

2. In your state's experiences, how much time does it take to complete this type of analysis?

We are providing our expert with a breakdown of population and demographics by precinct and a list of elections involving the minority candidates. With that she said that it would take her about a day for each region of the state that we ask her to look at.

3. Could you give a ballpark or range of about how much it cost to complete this analysis?

We were quoted \$400 an hour and we anticipate several hours on each area of the state we request an analysis on.